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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Production of New Amphibious Tank Series at the Yaroslavl Combine/Alleged Acts of Sabotage.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "The Yaroslavl Combine produces armored vehicles and tanks for the Soviet Army. The production includes heavy six-wheeled trucks, armored ammunition trucks, 'terrain vehicles' on caterpillars and medium (ca 50-ton) tanks.
2. "At the beginning of April 1953 the first series of 20 tanks of a new design were produced. Known as 'amphibious-mountain tanks', they are medium tanks adapted for mountainous terrain. Instead of having a gun-turret, each is mounted on the top with 'rocket launchers'. They can move easily on snow or ice and can cross rivers.
3. "Prototypes of this new tank series were sent in January 1953 to the Soviet garrison at Rens on the Chukot /Chukotski?/ Peninsula for tests in Arctic conditions. At that time it was found that the tank engines were too weak. The new series completed in April were equipped with more powerful engines.
4. "When these improved tanks were tested on the factory proving grounds in early April 1953, they were found to have been damaged by the deliberate introduction of steel filings in the engine cylinders.
5. "Military and CP authorities investigated the sabotage. They arrested several persons including (fnu) Kreis, construction engineer; (fnu) Bogatov, a foreman; and about eight production supervisors and inspectors."

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